THE MEDICAL COLLEGE OF GEORGIA
The Health Sciences University of the State of Georgia

Today

Volume 20, Number 4 Summer 1992

Anatomy

The Quest for Enlightenment

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THE MEDICAL COLLEGE OF GEORGIA
The Health Sciences University of the State of Georgia

Today

Volume 20, Number 4 Summer 1992

Introduction

Nothing is more basic to health care than anatomy—the quest to uncover the innermost workings of the human body.

It also is one of the most daunting demands of a health-care professional, navigating the incredibly complex machinery that keeps a body humming or destines it to disease.

This edition of *Medical College of Georgia Today* looks closer at the field of anatomy and its applications at the Medical College of Georgia.

Students tend to either cringe at the difficulties of freshman anatomy or revel in the challenge—usually a little of both. Meet Dr. Gene Colborn, an anatomy professor who paves the way, always with great delight. His love of the science led to his establishment of the Center for Clinical Anatomy, a means of broadening the educational experience and enabling physicians to practice a surgical technique or refine a new one in the anatomy lab.

Jackson Rhoads is also a familiar face in the lab. He is the director of body donation and the laboratory supervisor, ensuring that cadavers are available for study and that they are treated and maintained with the utmost respect and integrity. His standards and example set the tone for students' lifelong reverence for those who make the ultimate contribution to mankind.

Anatomy is a multidisciplinary pursuit, and faculty from the schools of medicine and allied health science have teamed up to develop programs that enable exploration of the human body on a computer screen. Read about the computerized neuroanatomy atlas, a truly thrilling journey into the brain.

All those affiliated with MCG's Department of Cellular Biology and Anatomy have in common a sense of awe at what a former humanities professor calls the handiwork of God: the human body. We hope you share that awe as you read of their efforts at the Medical College of Georgia.

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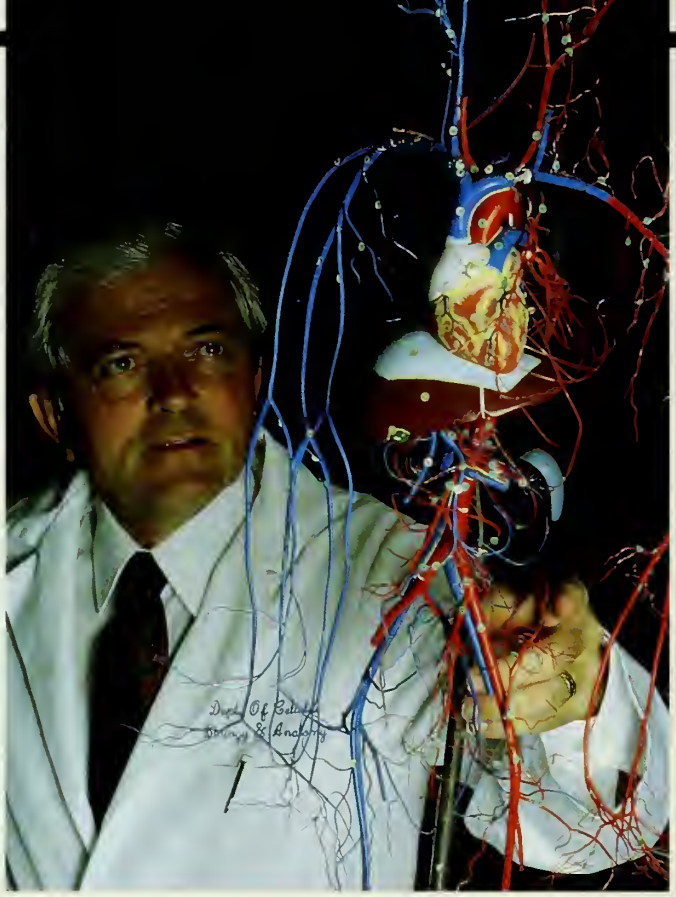

Centered on Success

Dr. Randy Smith remembers preparing to operate on a man with a grapefruit-sized melanoma on his head.

"The removal would expose brain, so I needed to reroute both skin and muscle to fill in the defect," said Dr. Smith said, an Augusta plastic surgeon and 1970 graduate of the Medical College of Georgia.

Before operating, he wanted to refresh himself on the anatomy of the area. Even better, he wanted to practice the surgery itself. He knew just who to call: Dr. Gene Colborn, professor of anatomy at the Medical College of Georgia.

"He is such a very nice person, and obviously he knows his business and can communicate exactly what I need to know," Dr. Smith said. "Whenever I go to him, I say, 'This is the problem. I need to know exactly where a certain nerve and artery are.' I know it in the book, but in our field, we cover the entire body."

Dr. Colborn not only gives him a refresher course in anatomy, he also provides a cadaver on which to practice the surgery.

"When I was operating on the man with the grapefruit-sized cancer, I needed to know exactly what I was going to do so I could do it quickly and reduce the risk of infection to the wound," Dr. Smith said. "Practicing the surgery beforehand cuts down on my operation time tremendously."

Dr. Smith's relationship with Dr. Colborn dates back some 10 years. He often calls a day or two before a surgery for assistance, and Dr. Colborn is always happy to be of service.

Today, that service has a name: the MCG Center for Clinical Anatomy. Dr. Colborn officially established the clinic in 1987 after approval from the University System of Georgia Board of Regents. He started from scratch, building on his eagerness to help students and health-care professionals broaden their expertise in anatomy. "There were no examples to model it after," he said, noting that other medical schools have since modeled similar clinics after his.

Dr. Lee Fullerton, an Augusta orthopedic surgeon, used the center recently when practicing a new endoscopic surgical technique to treat carpal-tunnel syndrome. He and some colleagues met several times with Dr. Colborn, who would inject a cadaver with dye to illustrate the blood supply of a patient. The physicians then practiced the surgery—an operation involving a smaller incision than the standard, resulting in a smaller scar and faster recovery—then dissected the wrist to check their work.

"The center has enabled us to refine this technique," Dr. Fullerton said. "I think this is an excellent resource. Dr. Colborn's interest in advancing science is what makes it so special—his enthusiasm, his skill, his willingness to take his time to help others."

The center is available to residents, faculty and community physicians. Dr. Colborn works both with individuals and groups, depending on the need. Specialists who have used the center to practice a technique or refine a new one have included ophthalmologists, gynecologists, plastic surgeons and orthopedic surgeons. The sessions are generally free of charge. "The expense is my time," said Dr. Colborn, who donates it generously. "If people donate their bodies (for medical research), I don't feel we should charge for their use, and it should be the public who benefits from them."

The cadavers can be maintained "almost indefinitely," he said. "(Laboratory supervisor) Jackson Rhoads and his staff maintain the cadavers as well as any place in the country." (See "Handiwork of God," page 23.)

The center can be used for research as well as clinical purposes. Indeed, the two missions generally go hand in hand. "Here is where education and research overlap inextricably," Dr. Colborn said.

Another facet of the center is a non-credit summer anatomy course. The course, offered through the MCG Division of Continuing Education, is designed primarily for incoming medical students who want to get their feet wet before plunging into med school in the fall.

"The philosophy of the course is to teach them study skills—to learn how to if not master, at least survive in the heavy medical curricula," said Dr. Colborn, who teaches the class. "It gives them a head start to the academic environment. They already learn much of their first-year anatomy course, which gives them an advantage in their other classes."

It also gives them a shot of confidence. "When they begin their regular curriculum in the fall, they do so with a confidence most medical students don't have," he said. "They are, in their words, more laid back."

About 40 students are attending the course this

summer. The cost of $975 is a bargain, Dr. Colborn said. "The students are provided with books and supplies to keep the cost down," he said. "About 15 medical schools offer remedial courses, and most of them are far more expensive than this course." Scholarships for the course are also available.

After taking the course, students can take a test to exempt their first-year anatomy class if they choose, but Dr. Colborn advises against it. "They can have a good solid 'A' on their record if they go ahead and take it," he said.

"I ended up getting an 'A' in freshman gross anatomy and probably put in half as much time as my classmates," said Cheryl Durstein-Decker, a medical student who took the course in the summer of 1991 to acclimate herself to the demands of medical school. "It also helped me in my other classes, because I had more time to devote to them."

Dr. Colborn teaches the course with the same philosophy that he brings to his regular curricula. "A bone of contention of mine from way back is that too often, students don't understand what they need to learn. If you want a student to learn more, tell him what it is you want him to know and why. A big part of medical school is deciphering what information is important. I spoon-feed with the largest spoon I can find."

But the course is decidedly no piece of cake.

"It's very, very intense," Ms. Durstein-Decker said. "We did in eight weeks what's normally done in 40."

"It's a hellacious course, I kid you not," Dr. Colborn said. "But the atmosphere is encouraging and supportive enough that even if the student doesn't do well, it's still a positive experience. One undergraduate took it because his father, a doctor, wanted him to go to medical school. He wasn't so sure. He doubted he'd like it, but now he's in pre-med. He didn't lose motivation; it grew. And because there's no grade, the course can't be construed to be punitive. Even if a student fails, I can write a letter in support of his motivation and potential."

Ms. Durstein-Decker concurs that her enthusiasm grew as the course progressed, largely due to Dr. Colborn. "He's wonderful," she said. "He really ranks up there with the best faculty this school has. When you see that fire in a teacher, it makes you passionate about the subject, too."

Still another facet of the center is an elective for medical-school seniors in which they can intensely study the anatomy data pertinent to their specialty. Dr. Colborn teaches the class, assisted by Dr. Walter Voyles, a retired chief of Burke County Hospital in Waynesboro who volunteers his time in order to maintain his connection to medicine. Dr. Voyles gives a 10- to 15-minute overview of the material to be covered at the beginning of each class.

"He gives something that's more than data: he gives counsel and inspiration," Dr. Colborn said. "He demonstrates and assists with major operative procedures to students, which gives them a head start in their clinical work. And he is a silver-tongued person in the classroom."

The different missions of the Center for Clinical Anatomy cover a wide range, but all converge in Dr. Colborn's goal of making the field as dynamic and productive as possible. "This has happened in steps, as things have to be done to be done right," he said. "But we started out with several goals when the center was established. I think it's fair to say that almost all of those are now in operation." ■

—CHRISTINE HURLEY DERISO

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Out on a Limb

Fig 1

The literature was split on where the radial nerve split.

"In our morning report we were discussing the variable anatomy of the radial nerve about the elbow," said Dr. J. Allan Goodrich, orthopedic surgeon at the Medical College of Georgia. "One person had read one thing about what the most common branch to a particular muscle was. Another person had read something else."

The radial nerve comes out of the brachial plexus, a group of nerves that come from the cervical spine and gives the arms their movement and feeling.

The particular muscle the orthopedists were discussing was the extensor carpi radialis brevis, a muscle at the back of the forearm that is key to extending the wrist.

At issue was where the radial nerve splits—above, at or below the elbow—to innervate this muscle.

"Without the radial nerve, you have wrist drop," said Dr. Gene L. Colborn, anatomist and director of the MCG Center for Clinical Anatomy. "If damaged high enough, you won't be able to straighten the elbow."

"We see a few people who get entrapment syndromes from just propping their elbow on a desk, getting a little scarring around that nerve," Dr. Goodrich said. "We see entrapment syndromes where normal body tissues may cause excessive pressure on the nerve and that can cause numbness in the top of the hand or weakness. But the thing we see most commonly is the injuries, either fractures here, gunshot wounds, stabbings, things around the arm that cut the radial nerve."

Since he often goes cutting in this area, he reasoned it would be a good idea to know more about where to cut safely.

"When you operate in that area, it is nice to know where these branches come off so that when you put retractors in the wound, you don't stretch or damage them. And you can be careful in your dissection to know this branch may come off here so we need to be careful when we are in this location."

There already are enough unknowns.

"When you go in on a traumatized limb, nothing looks normal, because it's bleeding. The structures aren't in the normal locations," Dr. Goodrich said.

The surgeon and the anatomist put their heads together to study this area of the arm, commonly invaded by orthopedists and plastic surgeons.

"We did a detailed anatomic dissection of cadaver specimens, tracing out the branches of the radial nerve about the elbow," Dr. Goodrich said.

The look at 113 limbs, the largest study of its kind, enabled them to find three major patterns of variability.

The most common site of the branching is the deep radial nerve, just above the elbow, where the branch comes off the major portion of the radial nerve. This was the location in 53.9 percent of cases.

The second most common location for this nerve branching is the superficial branch of the radial nerve, the major motor branch of the radial nerve found right at the elbow. This was the location in 33.6 percent of cases.

The least common site—at 12.3 percent—was the branching of the common radial nerve, just below the elbow, into its superficial and deep branches.

Previously, the largest study was a British study of 50 cadavers that identified the superficial radial nerve as the most common site (56 percent), the deep radial nerve as second (36 percent) and the common radial nerve the least common (8 percent).

In an article about the research, to be published in an upcoming *Journal of the American Association of Clinical Anatomists and the British Association of Clinical Anatomists*, the doctors write, "We have no suggestion as to the discrepancy between his findings and those of this study—which are almost exactly opposite in terms of the relative frequency of origin from superficial radial and deep radial."

"This is the largest cadaver study that has ever been done on this particular branch," Dr. Goodrich said. "The percentages varied from previous studies, but the different origins were appreciated before."

Dr. Monroe I. Levine, chief of the MCG Section of Orthopedic Surgery, and Dr. Nazir A. Bhatti, orthopedic surgeon at MCG, also contributed to the paper.

"The purpose of a paper like this it to tell the surgeon about the periphery of that which he is treating...the skin, this muscle, this tissue you are retracting," Dr. Colborn said. "You can't just be concerned with this bad joint or this broken bone. You have to be aware what you are putting aside or cutting.

"Without the nerve, the muscle doesn't function. It's like cutting off the electricity to a light bulb. Blood vessels bring it life, sustenance. But you have to have the nerve to keep it alive and to make it function."

"Just knowing that these variations occur helps you when you get down there, so that you don't go diving into an area where the branch may be," Dr. Goodrich said.

Dr. Colborn likens the ongoing effort to learn more and more about the human body to the farmer stumbling across some gems in his field, realizing as he finds them that they have been there all along.

"The stuff that was minutiae when I was a student 20 years ago is now critical to a plastic surgeon or a dermatologist or an orthopedist or a general surgeon. Individual little blood vessels that supply muscles, we never learned about those.

"But if you don't know not only what, but where that blood vessel is, then you have lost the ability to transpose a musculocutaneous flap or to move a bone from one part of the body to another, to take a fibula from the leg and replace a mandible that has been destroyed by disease."

Their mutual interest in exploring essential details has led to another project looking to see why patients who require surgery to remove diseased discs in their backs often have unclear magnetic resonance imaging studies after surgery.

For this delicate surgery, doctors use fine burrs rotating hundreds of times per minute and tiny suction devices to pick up bone fragments.

But metal fragments also are being produced and left behind.

"Some of the instruments that are used can leave little metal debris behind. You hit a rough surface like bone, you just can't prevent these little flecks of material from breaking off. You may not even see it," Dr. Goodrich said.

In fact, a regular X-ray shows nothing.

But, because of the magnet used in the MRI and the metal flakes that can be dispersed, the result can be scatter artifact that reduces the clarity and usefulness of the MRI study.

And it's highly likely these patients will need subsequent MRIs because of their disc disease.

"Basically what we were trying to study was which instrument was the culprit. Was it the burr? Was it the suction tip?"

It was back to the Center for Clinical Anatomy, where surgeons did two disc procedures on nine cadavers and had MRIs done before and after surgery.

They found it was the metal suction devices, needed to keep the wound dry so the surgeon can see, that were producing the scatter.

Deep in the neck, drilling in the disc space, invariably the drill and suction touch, Dr. Goodrich said.

They found that by substituting an aluminum suction tip for the metal, they didn't produce the MRI artifact.

"So what we recommend, as a result of this, is to use an aluminum suction tip rather than a metal suction tip," Dr. Goodrich said.

The surgeon is grateful to the people who donate their bodies to MCG so that such work can continue.

"Even though at certain medical schools, anatomy is taught by computer now and pictures and things like that, you can't replace the three-dimensional dissection of the cadaver. There is no substitute for that." ■

—TONI BAKER

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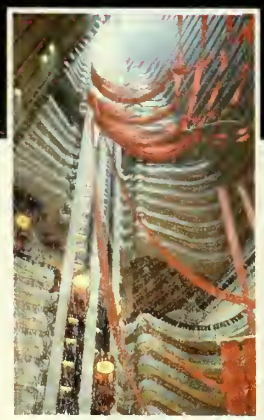

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AlumNews

Distinguished Alumni Honored

The Medical College of Georgia's five schools presented awards to outstanding alumni during its homecoming celebration April 30–May 3.

The School of Allied Health Sciences Alumni Association honored Catherine Nielson as its distinguished alumna. Ms. Nielson, who earned a bachelor's degree from the MCG School of Allied Health Sciences Department of Occupational Therapy in 1975, is director of the Division of Occupational Therapy at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Ms. Nielson earned a master's degree in public health from UNC-Chapel Hill and joined the school's faculty in 1984. She is a member of the American Occupational Therapy Association and the World Federation of Occupational Therapy.

The School of Dentistry Alumni Association honored Dr. David A. Owings as its distinguished alumnus. Dr. Owings, a 1973 graduate, graduated from pharmacy school at the Medical University of South Carolina in 1960 and worked as a drug company representative and a pharmacist before enrolling in dental school. He has maintained a family practice in North Augusta, S.C., since 1974. He is a member of the alumni association's board of directors and is a former president of the alumni association.

MCG President Francis J. Tedesco (center) with distinguished alumni Lois Ellison (from left), Catherine Nielson, Virginia Kemp, David Owings. (Not pictured: Spencer B. King III, Kenneth Korach).

Dr. Kenneth Korach, senior research endocrinologist and chief of the receptor biology section at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences in Research Triangle Park, N.C., is the School of Graduate Studies' distinguished alumnus. He earned a Ph.D. in endocrinology in 1974, followed by a two-year postdoctoral fellowship at Harvard Medical School. He joined the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences in 1976. He received the National Institutes of Health Outstanding Performance Award in 1988, 1989, 1990 and 1991 and the National Institutes of Health Special Service Award in 1989.

The School of Medicine Alumni Association honored Drs. Lois T. Ellison and Spencer B. King III as its distinguished alumni.

Dr. Ellison, associate vice president for planning (hospital and clinics) at MCG, earned her medical degree in 1950. She joined the MCG faculty in 1951 and serves also as director of MCG's pulmonary/blood gas laboratories; professor of medicine and surgery; and associate professor of physiology. She is a fellow of the American College of Chest Physicians and a member of the American Lung Association of Georgia board of directors.

Dr. King, director of interventional cardiology and the Andreas Gruentzig Cardiovascular Center at the Emory University School of Medicine, earned his medical degree in 1963. He is board certified in internal medicine and cardiovascular disease. Dr. King is a fellow of the American College of Physicians, the American College of Cardiology, the Society for Cardiac Angiography and Interventions and the European Society of Cardiology.

The School of Nursing Alumni Association honored Dr. Virginia Kemp with its Phoebe Kandel Rohrer award, named for a former dean of the school. Dr. Kemp, associate professor and associate dean of graduate

continued on page 22

Homecoming Reunions 1992

Left:
School of Medicine
Class of 1942
50-Year Reunion

Below middle:
School of Medicine
Class of 1947
45-Year Reunion

Bottom:
School of Medicine
Class of 1952
40-Year Reunion

School of Medicine
Class of 1957
35-Year Reunion

School of Medicine
Class of 1962
30-Year Reunion

School of Medicine
Class of 1967
25-Year Reunion

School of Medicine
Class of 1972
20-Year Reunion

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Allied Health Sciences

Ms. Mishoe Named Boss of Year

Shelley C. Mishoe, associate professor and chairman of the Department of Respiratory Therapy at the Medical College of Georgia, was named 1992 Boss of the Year by the Augusta Jaycees.

Ms. Mishoe was presented the award at the bosses' banquet March 13. She was nominated by Melanie L. Hagan, secretary for the Augusta Jaycees and administrative specialist for the Department of Respiratory Therapy. ■

Occupational Therapy Department Awarded

The Medical College of Georgia Department of Occupational Therapy was presented the 1992 American Occupational Therapy Association Professional and Technical Student Membership Awards at the AOTA meeting in March.

The award of $150 and certificate plaque is presented annually at the AOTA National Conference. It recognizes the occupational therapy and occupational therapy assistant programs with the highest membership in the student organization, the American Student Occupational Therapy Association.

MCG had 100 percent student membership at the professional level and 95 percent student membership at the technical level. ■

School of Allied Health Sciences Alumni Association President Grace Yrizarry presents plaque to distinguished alumna Catherine Nielson (left).

Father John Paris of Boston College discusses medical ethics during homecoming seminar.

Class Notes

Nancy Arnold Tollison (MRA, '74), Seattle, Wash., is a lieutenant commander in the U.S. Public Health Service, currently detailed to the Health Care Financing Administration.

Andrea L. Townsend, (PAC '83), Atlanta, practices pediatrics at Egleston Children's Hospital and was named to Who's Who Among Young American Professionals and Who's Who of American Women in 1991.

William Timothy (Tim) Marlow (PT, '87), Griffin, Ga., is clinic director and chief executive officer of Physical Therapy South in Griffin and Fayetteville specializing in orthopedic and sports rehab. He was certified as an arthritis instructor in 1988 and is working toward athletic trainer certification. He is a member of the American Physical Therapy Association and married wife Betsy April 23, 1988.

Kim Sumner Guidry ('88), Macon, is supervisor of nuclear medicine at the Medical Center of Central Georgia and married Morrison J. Guidry Feb. 19, 1992.

Martha C. Simmons (OT, '88), Mocksville, N.C., practices acute-care pediatrics at North Carolina Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem and married Patrick William Simmons May 18, 1991. ■

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Homecoming President's Reception.

MCG homecoming golf tournament.

Allied Health Sciences Alumni Association homecoming luncheon.

Dentistry

Dr. Pashley Lectures on Dentin Research

Ingrid Heggoy

Dr. David Pashley, Regent's professor of oral biology at the Medical College of Georgia School of Dentistry and professor of physiology and endocrinology at the MCG School of Medicine, discussed his dentin research as the 1992 Academy of Operative Dentistry's Buonocore Memorial guest lecturer.

He spoke in February at the academy's national meeting in Chicago.

He discussed his research on dentin acid etching, a technique used to bond materials to tooth dentin, and his related studies on tooth dentin and pulp. ■

5 Participate in Hinman Meeting

Ingrid Heggoy

Three Medical College of Georgia School of Dentistry faculty lectured and two dental students received scholarships at the annual Thomas P. Hinman Dental Meeting in Atlanta March 13–16.

Dr. Warren Karp, professor of pediatrics, oral biology, oral diagnosis, and biochemistry and molecular biology, presented a lecture titled "Nutrition for the 1990s: The Diet to Promote Health and Prevent Disease."

Dr. Arun Nayyar, professor of restorative dentistry, presented a course titled "Enhancing Your Clinical Efficiency in Fixed Prosthodontics."

Dr. Phil Hanes, professor of periodontics, presented "Practical Periodontics for the General Practitioner" with Dr. Leroy Alford, a dentist in Rome, Ga.

Sophomore dental student Holly Rogers and junior Greg Morris each received a $2,000 Hinman Dental Society Scholarship. ■

New Course Gives Students Taste of Rural Dentistry

Ingrid Heggoy

A new MCG School of Dentistry elective in Warrenton, Ga., gives senior dental students a better look at health care in underserved areas of the state.

The new senior honors elective, which began in March, allows students to work with Dr. Alfred Peters, a dentist with the East Central Georgia Health District and a 1983 graduate of the school, at the clinics of Tri-County Health Systems, Inc., in Warrenton.

Tri-County clinics provide medical and dental care on a sliding-fee scale to residents of Warren, Glascock and Taliaferro counties.

The students go to Tri-County on Wednesdays, where they treat patients under Dr. Peters' supervision in an examination room equipped with mobile dental equipment, including a dental exam chair that collapses to transport in a car.

"We do basic, general dentistry out here," Dr. Peters said. "We do preventive dentistry, endodontics, fillings, basic general dentistry. We refer the more complicated cases, the ones we don't have the specialized equipment for, elsewhere.

"The students see things out here they just wouldn't have the opportunity to treat at the school," he said. "The water isn't fluoridated out here, so you see more decay, and because of the rural setting, you see more advanced decay than you're likely to see in Augusta."

Senior Denise Attaway, one of three students taking the elective, believes it is worth the drive.

"I think it's good to get out of the dental school environment, for a different look at taking care of patients," she said. "It's a different type of dentistry than what we typically see at the school. At school, students don't see the really complicated cases—they're screened out and go to residents or faculty. Here, you see more variety, and more complex things, and often these patients can't afford the optimal treatments.

"Also, a lot of these people aren't dentally educated, and may not come in for treatment until something is hurting them."

Dr. Earl Williams, professor and chairman of the MCG Department Community Dentistry, organized and supervises the program.

Dr. Williams already is planning to find opportunities to expand the program. He hopes to offer dental care in Tri-County's satellite offices in Gibson and Crawfordville, Ga., next year, in cooperation with the East Central Georgia Health District. ■

From the Dean

David R. Myers, D.D.S.

At the annual meeting of the School of Dentistry Alumni Association May 2, members in attendance discussed the School of Dentistry's mission and some of the current and controversial issues in dental education.

The alumni expressed concern that the educational program of the School of Dentistry was being de-emphasized at the expense of the research effort. While it is true that the Medical College of Georgia is committed to increasing its emphasis on research, there has never been any intent to de-emphasize education.

In the midst of global change and turbulence, those of us associated with the school need to maintain our equilibrium and consider the profound changes impacting dental education. These changes are underscored by the recent announcement of the closure of Loyola University

School of Dentistry homecoming luncheon

Dr. David Owings, School of Dentistry distinguished alumnus, holds plaque.

School of Dentistry. This brings to six the number of dental schools closing since 1985.

In our mission statement, revised and published in 1991, we emphatically stated: "The School of Dentistry exists to educate predoctoral students to become dentists and graduate dentists to become dental specialists competent to provide quality orofacial health care for their patients. ...These educational programs are committed to excellence and to the concept of lifelong learning."

In view of our primary commitment to predoctoral and postdoctoral education, there has been discussion on the future organization and structure of the basic sciences common to dentistry and medicine. In these discussions, emphasis has been given the dentally-oriented teaching and research in the disciplines identified with oral biology.

At the same time, convincing arguments have been made for the cost-effective assignment of personnel and utilization of resources in the basic science disciplines common to medicine and dentistry. Compelling arguments also have been made for greater collegiality of dental faculty and students with scholars in other professional schools. Dentistry urgently needs to strengthen its ties with other health professions, and this process should begin within the health science university. No decision, however, has been made to abandon the existing oral biology structure and any future changes will be open to review by all involved constituencies.

Secondly, the revised mission statement for the school states: "The School of Dentistry recognizes its responsibility for discovering new knowledge and improving human orofacial health. This is accomplished through ongoing research and scholarly activity involving the physical sciences, biological sciences, behavioral sciences and clinical sciences." Such activity is essential to the future of every successful dental practice and to the status of dentistry as a profession. Critical issues such as infectious disease control, mercury toxicity and the application of new technologies must be resolved through appropriate research. Scholarly activity also is essential to dentistry's public credibility and the profession's recognition as a coequal discipline. Such activity is a precondition for outstanding teaching and learning in a profession undergoing constant change.

Basic science faculty usually will pursue research in basic science disciplines. Clinical faculty usually will conduct clinical research that will further patient care. Scholarly activity is a general requirement for university tenure. Such activity, however, is not a universal requirement for faculty appointment and retention as selected faculty may be employed primarily for teaching on a non-tenure track without the expectation of significant scholarly activity.

Thirdly, as part of its mission: "The School of Dentistry is committed to providing dental health care of superior quality to patients and consultative services for individuals and society." In the last few years steps have been taken to increase clinical emphasis in the predoctoral program. Like other dental schools, we are expanding our clinical commitment to include immediate care, hospital care, geriatric patient care and handicapped patient care. We have been computerizing clinic records and student clinical performance and productivity. We have been cooperating with the School of Medicine in extramural clinical settings, such as Tricounty Health Systems, Inc., a health-care program for Warren, Glascock and Taliaferro counties based in Warrenton, Ga.

The School of Dentistry remains committed to its historic mission. It is striving to maintain parity with similar institutions and with the rapid changes occurring in health professions. We remain committed to the people of Georgia, the profession of dentistry, our alumni, our patients and our students. Students are the ultimate reason for our existence, and we are proud of our students. They include some of the best qualified dental students in this country and will prove to be superb members of our profession.

Rather than depriving them of needed time and space, of essential facilities and opportunities, we are constantly striving to strengthen the advantages extended to them. These advantages include making our facilities responsive to the contemporary needs of our patients, students, faculty and staff. As a school we remain determined to recruit, retain, educate and graduate the best and brightest students to represent our profession and to serve the people of Georgia.

Always, but perhaps particularly in these volatile times we covet a close relationship with our alumni. We want you to know that you will always remain our esteemed colleagues in the world of active professional practice. We intend to keep you informed of the rapid and sometimes startling educational, research and service developments in academic health centers. Together we can remain proud of the MCG School of Dentistry. ■

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Dr. Martini Speaks at Muldoon Lecture

Christine Hurley Deriso

Dr. Luciano Martini, professor and chairman of endocrinology at the University of Milano, Italy, discussed physiological effects of the male sex hormone, androgen, as guest lecturer of the third Thomas G. Muldoon Memorial Lectureship June 22 at the Medical College of Georgia.

The lectureship, established by the MCG Department of Physiology and Endocrinology in 1990, honors Dr. Thomas G. Muldoon, a professor in the department until his death in 1989. Dr. Muldoon's research of sex hormones and their effects throughout the body resulted in more than 70 scientific publications and brought him international acclaim and recognition.

Dr. Martini, a native of Milano, earned his medical degree summa cum laude from the University of Milano in 1950. Upon graduation, he joined the faculty as assistant professor of pharmacology and was named associate professor in 1956. From 1967 to 1983, he served as director of a training and research program titled "Physiology of Reproduction" at the university, supported by a grant of the Ford Foundation in New York.

In 1968, he joined the University of Perugia, Italy, as professor and chairman of the Department of Pharmacology. He joined the University of Pavia, Italy, in 1970 as chairman of the Department of Pharmacology, and rejoined the University of Milano in 1972 as professor and chairman of the Department of Endocrinology. In 1988, he was named president of the committee supervising the Center of Oncological Endocrinology at the university.

His honors include the 1978 Italian Ministry of Education Gold Medal for outstanding service in the fields of education, art and science, and the 1982 Axel Munthe Award. He has authored more than 400 scientific publications and has served as president of the International Society of Neuroendocrinology, the Italian Society of Endocrinology and the International Society of Endocrinology. ■

Drs. Greenbaum, Leibach Participate in Research Symposium

Two representatives of the Medical College of Georgia participated in the second annual University System Symposium on Research May 8–9 at the University of Georgia.

Dr. Lowell M. Greenbaum, vice president for research and dean of MCG's School of Graduate Studies, discussed "Strategic Alliances," methods of strengthening mutually beneficial corporate and academic ties. Dr. Frederick H. Leibach, chairman of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, chaired a session about waste management and pollution prevention.

The symposium, developed by the University System of Georgia Chancellor's Research Advisory Committee, showcases research in Georgia's universities and colleges and provides a forum for faculty and students statewide to exchange ideas. MCG hosted the first symposium in spring 1991.

The theme of this year's symposium was "Designing Tomorrow's Sustainable Environment Today." The symposium was held at the UGA Center for Continuing Education in Athens. ■

Dr. Greenbaum Delivers Lecture in Japan

Dr. Lowell M. Greenbaum, dean of the School of Graduate Studies and vice president for research at the Medical College of Georgia, was guest speaker for a meeting of medical researchers in Japan.

The Osaka Foundation for the Promotion of Fundamental Medical Research met in Osaka, Japan Aug. 2. Dr. Greenbaum delivered a memorial lecture in honor of the late Dr. Setsuro Fujii, former executive director of the foundation, which he established in 1981.

Drs. Greenbaum and Fujii worked together as biochemists

School of Graduate Studies fish fry, sponsored by the alumni association during homecoming.

in New Haven, Conn., during the 1950s and remained close friends until Dr. Fujii's death in 1989. Dr. Greenbaum reminisced about their friendship and discussed their joint studies of anti-inflammatory drugs and other health issues related to the blood product, kinin. ■

Graduate Studies homecoming lecture.

Dr. Virendra Mahesh (left) shakes hand of the School of Graduate Studies' distinguished alumnus, Dr. Kenneth Korach.

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Emily Hammond Wilson, M.D., second female graduate.

Second Female Grad Recounts Years as Country Doctor

Christine Hurley Deriso

The residents of rural South County, Maryland were somewhat wary when the first and only physician in the area hung a shingle in 1929. But the country doctor quickly won them over, demonstrating competence and conscientiousness beyond compare. The doctor frequently made house calls and often slogged through the snow on foot or horseback to reach ailing patients.

It was kind of an odd sight, especially when the doctor slogging through the snow had her two children in tow. But Dr. Emily Hammond Wilson was never one to worry about appearances.

Dr. Wilson had known since childhood she wanted to be a physician. She helped her mother care for her seven younger siblings while growing up in Beech Island, S.C., and was often enlisted as something of a physician's assistant. "My mother took care of all the babies. There weren't any doctors in the area at that time, so I helped out," Dr. Wilson said.

Nevertheless, her parents weren't prepared when she told them she wanted to go to medical school. "They didn't think I'd stick it out. But I think I always thrived on opposition."

And she certainly didn't lack for opposition. Once she sold her parents on the idea, she had to win over the dean of the Medical College of Georgia, who suspected her only motivation was to flirt with medical students. At that point, MCG had enrolled only one woman in its history: Loree Florence, who had begun medical school the year before. Dr. Wilson reminded the dean that the precedent had been set.

"I wouldn't take no for an answer," she laughed. The dean finally allowed her to enroll at MCG, where her next obstacle was the derision of her classmates.

"Fortunately, I had a sense of humor, because I was the joke of the class," she said. "But I went to fraternity dances and had a right good time on the side. I wasn't completely ostracized." When the class confronted cadavers for the first time, she was among the sturdier souls who helped those who had fainted back to their feet. Ultimately, her classmates were proud to name her among their peers.

"I was the only member of my graduating class to get flowers," she said.

She graduated in 1927 but discovered to her annoyance that she had yet to prove herself. Augusta hospitals denied her an internship because of her gender, so she reluctantly settled for a residency at the Central of Georgia Railroad Hospital in Savannah. "It was not what I wanted," she said. "There were no pediatrics and no obstetrics."

But she wasn't there for long. After a year, she applied for an appointment at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore and was accepted. She pursued a general practice—her dream—and researched constitutional diseases with a colleague.

"In the meantime, I heard there was a need for a country doctor in Maryland," she said. She headed for South County, a can't-get-there-from-here dot on the map with all of two paved roads.

The residents weren't exactly overwhelmed when they met their only doctor.

"A lot of them bragged they wouldn't let a woman put a hand on them, but when they got sick, they were right glad they had a doctor," she recalled.

And what a doctor she was. She canvassed the countryside with her black bag, not slowing down even after she married and had two sons. "I don't think any children ever rode in an automobile as much as mine did, both when I was carrying them and after they were born," she said. "I took them with me on house calls, and we walked if the weather was bad."

She charged $2 for house calls, $15 for a home delivery and $1 for office visits. The office was the summer kitchen of her home. "It was very strenuous, because there was never an hour of the day or night when there wasn't somebody in the yard waiting to see me."

Her mother-in-law lived with the family and helped with the children, but Dr. Wilson clearly had her work cut out for her. "In those days, we had no antibiotics, no ambulances, no paramedics."

And her patients frequently had no money, especially during the Depression. Many paid her with oysters, an abundant local food. "I liked them, but then I thought if I saw another oyster, I'd die."

She also was initially denied admitting privileges at the only hospital within 100 miles, Anne Arundel Hospital in Annapolis. "They told me I couldn't be a member because I lived too far away," she said. "But I joined anyhow." She was eventually named chief of staff, a position she held for two years.

During her 53-year practice in South County, Dr. Wilson tended countless ills, delivered hundreds of babies, served as president of the County Medical Society, founded the Academy of Family Practice and nurtured her sons' growth. (Today, one is a lawyer, another a businessman.) When her husband died in 1952, she remained a widow for 23 years then married a high school sweetheart. "He died three years ago of cancer, but we had 14 years together," she said.

Today, Dr. Wilson is a robust and vibrant 87-year-old who gardens, enjoys her children and two grandchildren and lives in a 300-year-old colonial farm house in South County named Obligation.

As busy as she is, she still thinks often of the patients she left behind when she retired in 1982. "It's the people I miss more than anything," she said. "I miss it, but it was time."

And she hasn't left them too far behind. "I'd have five or six generations in the same family that I took care of," she said. "I run into my old patients at the grocery store. They come up and hug me." ■

Dr. Gadacz Edits Surgery Textbooks

Toni Baker

Dr. Thomas R. Gadacz, chairman of the Medical College of Georgia Department of Surgery, is principal editor of the inaugural issue of a planned series of textbooks on

minimally invasive surgery.

"Laparoscopic Surgery" features extensive illustrations and is designed to familiarize the physician-in-training as well as the practicing surgeon with the safe, effective use of a laparoscope to remove the gallbladder.

A laparoscope is a half-inch scope that is inserted into the abdominal area. The scope provides surgeons with a two-dimensional view inside the abdomen, where they can dissect the gallbladder, empty it and remove it with minimal pain, scarring and healing time for the patient. Similar procedures can be used to remove a kidney, colon or appendix, and many more procedures are being developed.

Dr. Gadacz is a gastrointestinal surgeon specializing in minimally invasive surgery. Other editors are Dr. Mark A. Talamini, assistant professor, Department of Surgery, The Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions; and Dr. John L. Cameron, chairman of surgery, The Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions. ■

Outgoing School of Medicine Alumni Association President Samuel Goodrich, M.D. at the association's homecoming banquet.

School of Medicine homecoming dean's reception.

Drs. Gregory Eastwood and Francis Tedesco (from left) accept MCG blazers presented to them by the School of Medicine Alumni Association during homecoming.

Class Notes

Dr. Bill Copeland, Northampton, Mass., practices pediatrics at the Baystate Medical Center at Western Campus Tufts University and will start work with Indian Health Service in Sells, Ariz., in August. He was married in April 1991.

Dr. Victor E. Corrigan, Atlanta, has been elected a fellow of the American College of Cardiology. He practices with the Atlanta Cardiology Group.

Dr. Judson L. Hawk, senior vice president and medical advisor of the Scottish Rite Children's Medical Center Foundation, has been named senior advisor for children's issues for The Atlanta Project, an initiative of former President Jimmy Carter to pool resources in Atlanta to reduce poverty and other societal ills in the city. Dr. Hawk will concentrate on issues pertaining to expectant mothers and children.

Dr. Frank Wilson has been named a Kenan professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Dr. Irving Victor ('45) has been awarded Armstrong State College's 1992 Distinguished Alumni Award.

Dr. William Smith Jr ('51) retired in 1988 after 28 and a half years of private practice in orthopedic surgery in Tallahassee, Fla. He now works part time for CompHealth, a locum tenans company. He and wife Ruby enjoy camping to and from locum tenans assignments. They have two children and their first grandchild was born in January 1992.

Dr. William Knox Fitzpatrick Jr. ('52), Salt Lake City, is vice president of medical affairs for Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Utah and likes to fish, ski and golf. He and wife Barbara have three children and four grandchildren.

Dr. James F. Brooks ('56), Atlanta, has a private practice in psychoanalysis, psychiatry and forensic psychiatry. He is a clinical professor of psychiatry at Emory University. He and wife Sibyl, married 36 years, have two sons.

Dr. Denville T. Darnell ('57) has a family practice at the Tate Clinic in Tate, Ga.

Dr. Vernon J. Grantham ('57) has a family practice in Ft. Valley, Ga.

Dr. James Randall Kennedy ('57), Bradenton, Fla., still flies his Ultralite and practices peds.He and wife Mardelle have three children and a granddaughter.

Dr. Robert H. Moreland Jr. ('57) has a new granddaughter, Ashlyn, born April 4, 1992.

Dr. Harry E. Sims ('57) practices family medicine and addiction medicine in Fort Valley, Ga.

Dr. Jerome Siegel ('60), New York, has just published a textbook, "Endoscopic Rectograd Colangio Pancreatography: Techniques, Diagnoses and Therapy" by Raven Press.

Dr. Benjamin H. Wofford Jr. ('62) Marietta, Ga., is vice president of the Southeastern Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons. He and wife Sandra have three daughters, Wendy, Alison and Laura Lea.

Dr. William E. Taylor ('67) has a family practice in Tennille, Ga. He and wife Martha have two daughters.

Dr. Ben Cannon ('72) is an associate of Radiological Associates in Chico, Calif., and is a retired colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve.

Dr. Howard C. Derrick ('72) is a general surgeon and chairman of the laser committee at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas. He and wife Suzette have sons Dustin and Chase.

Dr. Sandra E. Willis ('77) practices internal medicine in Sacramento, Calif., and is medical executive officer and committee chairperson.

Dr. Marietta Nelson ('79), Las Vegas, was elected president of the Nevada Ophthalmological Society for 1992–94. She has two children, Iboro, 10, and Neal, 4.

Dr. E.A. Roper ('81), Seattle, practices pulmonary and critical-care medice at the Swedish Hospital Medical Center and Providence Medical Center. He and wife Dale have sons Will, Matt and Alex.

Dr. Kelley B. Dopson ('82) is chairman of Quality Improvement of the OB/GYN's executive committee at Northside Hospital in Atlanta.

Dr. Thomas L. Dopson ('82) practices orthopedics in Atlanta. He and wife Kelley have three children.

Dr. Cheryl Newman ('82) is assistant professor of medicine and infectious disease at MCG. She and husband Michael Whitton have sons Michael, 3, and John Allen, 18 months.

Dr. Elizabeth V. Thomas Delesante ('84) finished a psychiatry residency in February 1992 and has begun work at Brainerd Regional Human Services Center in Baxter, Mn.

Dr. Rhonda Wright ('85), Montgomery, Ala., joined Montgomery Pathology Associates in January 1992. Her husband, Bob Woods, is a professional church musician.

Dr. Oscar R. Jenkins Jr. ('86), Ashville, N.C., has joined a cardiology group after serving as a clinical instructor and fellow in adult cardiology at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio. He and wife Elizabeth have an infant son, Stephen Alexander.

Dr. Claude T. Su ('86), Savannah, has a private practice after serving as chief fellow of cardiology at the University of Alabama in Birmingham. He and wife Susan (a former nursing instructor at MCG) have daughters Laura Ling, 3, and Catherine Mei, 1.

Dr. Marvin T. Phillips III ('87), Gainesville, Ga., practices pediatrics at Northeast Georgia Pediatric Group. His special interest is computers and their use in practice. His son, Cameron Edward, is 6 months old.

Dr. Cameron Greene ('88), Jacksonville, has accepted a position with Barnes, Hill and Rebenack. He completed his residency in June at the University Medical Center in Jacksonville. During his senior year, Dr. Greene was chief resident at University Medical Center.

Dr. Mark E. Murphy ('88), Chapel Hill, N.C., began a gastroenterology fellowship at UNC-Chapel Hill after completing a residency there in internal medicine. During his residency, he was selected the outstanding teaching resident by medical students of the class of 1990. He and wife Daphne have sons Joshua and Christopher.

Dr. Elaine Mott Urbina ('88), New Orleans, was the first M.D. accepted into the new fellowship training at Tulane University Medical Center for a subspecialty in pediatric cardiology. She and husband Nicasio had a daughter, Francesca Celia, April 27, 1992. ■

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School of Medicine distinguished alumnus Spencer King, M.D.

Homecoming Reunions 1992

continued from page 9

School of Medicine
Class of 1977
15-Year Reunion

School of Medicine
Class of 1982
10-Year Reunion

School of Medicine
Class of 1987
5-Year Reunion

MEDICAL COLLEGE OF GEORGIA
SCHOOL OF NURSING
1943-1993
FIRST FIFTY YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

Coalition Offers Health Care to Poor

Christine Hurley Deriso

The Augusta community has formed a coalition to reach out to the area's neediest citizens.

Coordinated Health Services this spring began providing primary and preventive health care for impoverished people who either can't or don't access other health-care resources, according to Dr. Shirley George, associate professor of community health nursing at the Medical College of Georgia and MCG's coalition representative.

The coalition includes Catholic Social Services, the East Central Health District (which encompasses Richmond County), the MCG School of Nursing, St. Mary on the Hill Catholic Church and University Hospital. The coalition is funded by the federal government's McKinney Homeless Fund and by the state of Georgia via Medicaid funds.

Dr. George has laid the groundwork for the coalition for several years, beginning in 1988 when she and Dr. Gerald Bennett, associate professor of mental health nursing at MCG, amassed data about Augusta's homeless population. She followed up with a survey measuring their access to health care. Her findings indicated that although many of them seek out community resources for necessities such as food and clothing, they refrain from using health-care services until an illness necessitates a trip to an emergency room.

"They're living precarious lives," Dr. George said. "We find that many just don't make it into the clinics or other services."

Dr. George's solution was to offer preventive and primary health care at a site they visit anyway—in this case, Augusta's Catholic Social Services, which provides food, clothing and other assistance to homeless and indigent people.

The coalition has obtained an office near Catholic Social Services on Arsenal Avenue which will house a family nurse practitioner, who will report to Dr. George regarding clinical care, and a clerical assistant. The office began operating April 1.

"We can provide services across the board to all ages," Dr. George said, noting that the nurse practitioner will refer patients to physicians, hospitals or other community resources when appropriate. "A major goal is to link and coordinate the services we offer with local resources."

Dr. George's 1988 study of Augusta's homeless indicates a vast indigent population. "We not only have the homeless you see on the streets, but what I call the hidden population—mostly women with children. You generally don't see them walking the streets or using the shelters, but they are homeless. Others are marginally homeless—at high risk of being homeless soon."

Dr. George hopes to expand the program soon to include home visitation and a social worker. For more information about the coalition, contact Dr. George at (706) 721-3676. ■

From the Alumni Association President

Diane Niedling Hilson

Hi! As the newly elected alumni association president, I'd like to introduce myself. I am a graduate of both the MCG School of Nursing ('77) and the School of Graduate Studies (nursing administration, '90). I am head nurse of 3-north, a medical-surgical unit here at MCG, a position I've held for nine years. I am a member of the Georgia Nurses Association and Sigma Theta Tau. Married, I have two children: Ross, 5, and Katherine, 3.

This is a very special, exciting year for the School of Nursing as we begin to celebrate our 50th anniversary. The alumni association's plans for celebrating include increasing our scholarship programs for students and recognizing our alumni in MCG publications for their accomplishments.

We also plan to bring the alumni association to you by hosting dinners, lunches, buffets or coffees (your choice) throughout Georgia. These events pro-

Ga. Sen. Jack Connell presents proclamation to nursing school Dean Vickie Lambert recognizing the school's 50th anniversary. The anniversary celebration kicked off during homecoming.

vide a wonderful opportunity for you to meet our dean, board members and fellow classmates. During these events, you will be informed of the exciting events planned for celebrating the anniversary. Dean Vickie Lambert and the faculty have some excellent ideas and plans which will be announced throughout the year.

The alumni association also will sponsor a luncheon during the Georgia Nurses Association convention in Columbus, Ga. If you are attending this convention, do plan to join us for lunch Oct. 15 at the Columbus Hilton.

As I'm sure you know, most of these plans require funding, which is why your alumni association dues are so essential to our ability to succeed. The MCG School of Nursing is your school. We want to develop a strong alumni association which, in turn, could offer even more support to our school, programs and alumni.

We can accomplish much as a united association. Of approximately 4,000 graduates, only 412 are members of the association—only 10 percent. Alumni association dues are only $20. Just think how much more we could do if we doubled our membership. With this thought, I'd like to personally challenge each member, including lifetime members, to recruit just one alumna as a member. The MCG School of Nursing continues to thrive in its reputation of being a good school. I'm certain you are proud to be able to say MCG is our alma mater. Use this opportunity to express your support by joining the alumni association now.

We will only be as successful as you allow. Please update your file by calling our alumni representative, Tammy Berry, at 1–800–869–1113, or me at 706–721–4082.

Thank you for considering becoming a member of our alumni association. It is both an excellent opportunity and a wonderful time to express your commitment to your school. I look forward to working with all of you. ■

Ga. Rep. Charles Walker presents proclamation to Dr. Lambert honoring nursing school's 50th anniversary.

School of Nursing outgoing Alumni Association President Jeanette Brown presents plaque to distinguished alumna Virginia Kemp (left).

Class Notes

Dr. Barbara Katherine Price Lohmuller ('72), Lilburn, Ga., specializes in transplant intensive care. She and husband Brian have two children.

Georgianna Raines Smith (B.S.N., '76), Snellville, Ga., is lead nurse of HIV/STD (PHN) District Health Office of Gwinnett County, which covers Gwinnett, Rockdale and Newton counties, a total of five clinics. She married Julius C. Smith of Snellville Feb. 23, 1991.

Cindy Captain (B.S.N., '77) earned a master's degree in nursing from Emory University in 1987. She and husband Jim have three children.

Deborah L. Farmer ('77), Raleigh, N.C., wrote an article titled "Nurses' Greatest Fear: Demise of the Profession" in the August 1991 edition of Nursing Management. She was appointed to the cabinet on Government and Health Policy, North Carolina Nurses' Association, for 1991–93; is active in the NCNA Council for Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses in Advanced Practice; works with othe psychiatric-mental health nurses in N.C. to pursue third-party reimbursement; and is treasurer of the NCNA Constituent Association #13. ■

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(Associate Member)

Dr. Murray Freedman (left) presents two free airline tickets to Dr. Thomas Harden. The tickets, to anywhere in the continental U.S., were donated by Morris Travel as prizes for a homecoming drawing. Other winners were Drs. Kelley Dopson and Billie J. Davis.

AlumNews

Editor Christine Hurley Deriso
Writers Toni Baker
Christine Hurley Deriso
Ingrid Heggoy
David Waller
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Deadline for submitting information for publication in the spring issue of Alumnews is Sept. 1, 1992

Alumni! Let us know what's new with you by taking a moment to fill out this form. Also, please send us your curriculum vitae so we can keep your files up-to-date.

Today's date

Name

Phone

School graduated from

Degree Class year

Street address

City State Zip

❑ Check if new address

Present specialty and place of practice or training

Professional news

Personal news (b&w photos welcome)

Please send to: Christine Deriso; Alumni Center FI-100; Medical College of Georgia; Augusta, GA 30912

Alumni... *continued from page 7*
programs and research at the MCG School of Nursing, earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from MCG in 1971, a master's degree from Emory University in 1972 and a Ph.D. from the University of Texas, Austin, in 1983. She helped coordinate MCG's nursing doctoral program and received the school's outstanding-faculty award in 1985. ■

Medical Memorabilia Sought for Hospital Displays

Christine Hurley Deriso

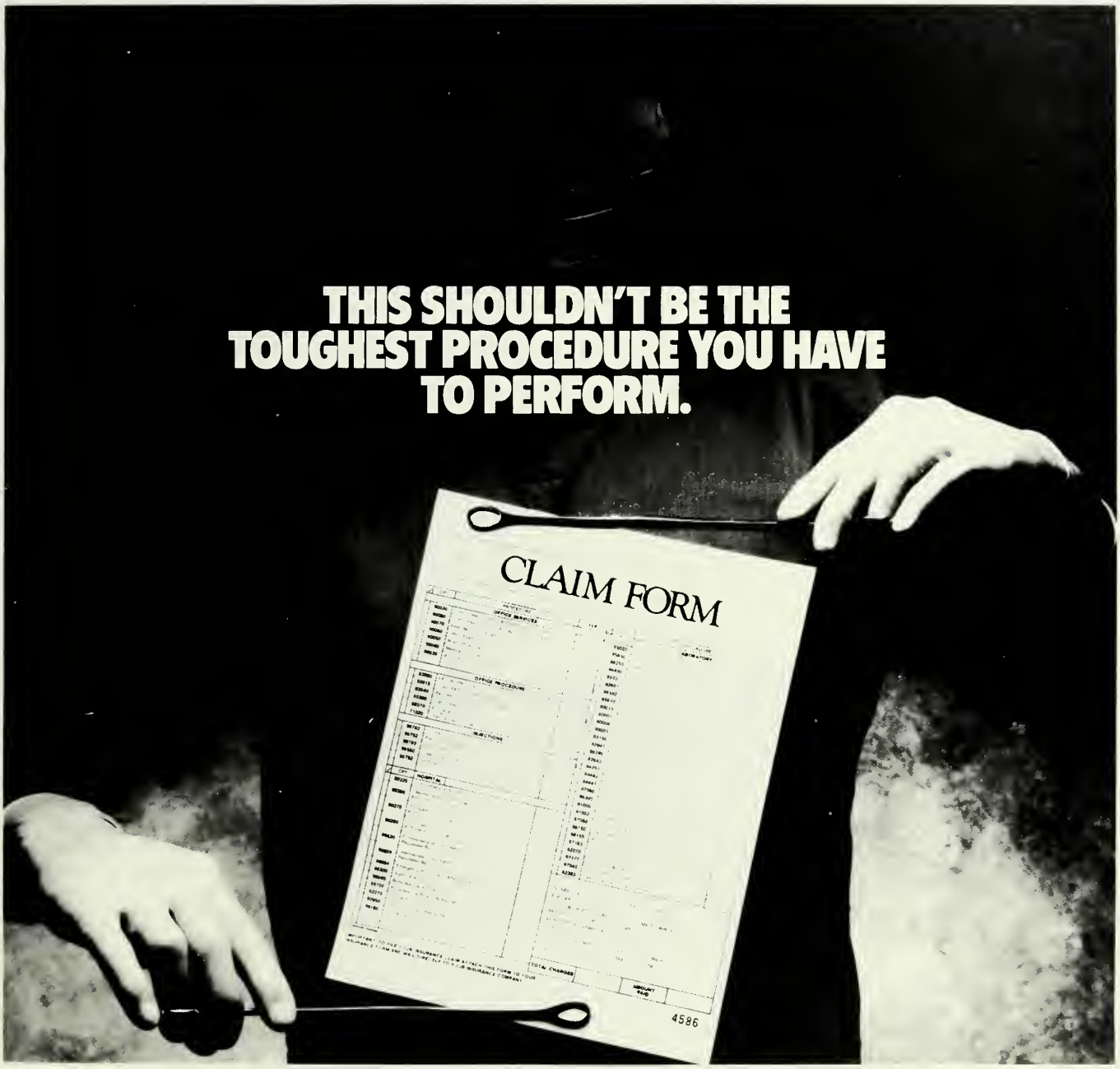
The Medical College of Georgia Arts in the Hospital Committee is collecting medical memorabilia to include in hospital displays.

The items will be displayed in the lobbies of the hospital's new Ambulatory Care Center/Specialized Care Center and in the waiting room of the trauma unit, according to Lynthia Strong, chairman of the committee.

Committee members met with the centers' architect recently for suggestions about art displays to complement the facility. "He suggested that what would be of interest to patients, staff and visitors might very well be medical memorabilia," Mrs. Strong said.

She stressed that the memorabilia needn't be monetarily valuable. "We are trying to acquire pieces that have aesthetic value, such as medical pictures, prints, fabric pieces and sculptures," she said. The committee already has acquired a caduceus which will be integrated into a display.

Items may be donated in someone's honor or memory, Mrs. Strong said, and all donated items are tax-deductible. Those interested in donating or in more information may call Judy Avrett, director of volunteer services and community relations, at (706) 721–3596. ■



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Handiwork of God

So in giving the body after death, surely these persons gave something of themselves to us. If only an empty shell, as we might pick one off the beach and turn it over in our hands, so have we turned these bodies in our hands, seen their beauty of structure and have traced the handiwork of God.

—EXCERPTED FROM
A Prayer of Gratitude by Young Physicians
Fr. Joseph O'Brien

Those who donate their bodies to science realize that a body's usefulness doesn't have to end with death.

"I look at bodies as having no permanence—ashes to ashes, dust to dust. If it's possible to make them of benefit, I think it's a good idea," said Jackson Rhoads, director of body donation and laboratory supervisor for the Medical College of Georgia Department of Anatomy.

When MCG anatomy chairman Dale Bockman recruited Mr. Rhoads from the Medical College of Ohio in 1975, the two realized they had their work cut out for them. "That year, 33 bodies had been donated to MCG," Mr. Rhoads recalled.

The number was sorely deficient for the department's needs.

The problem had been a recurrent one since MCG's inception in 1828. During the 1800s, Georgia law prohibited the dissection of human bodies. The school, desperate to teach its students and aware that the goal was largely unachievable without cadavers, resorted to the same solution as that of most other medical schools nationwide: a "resurrection man."

The term is lamentably literal. Resurrection men dug up graves by moonlight and furtively deposited the bodies at the Old Medical College, then the site of the school. A particularly enduring figure from MCG's history is longtime resurrection man Grandison Harris, originally purchased by the school as a slave and retained as an employee after the Civil War. At night, Mr. Harris would trek to Cedar Grove cemetery, dig up a grave, smash the coffin with an ax, put the body in a sack and take it to the medical school. (Some medical students, so the story goes, once removed a body Mr. Harris had left in his wagon while he stopped at a tavern for a drink, and one of the students climbed into the sack. When Mr. Harris returned, the student inside the sack moaned, "Grandison, Grandison, I'm cold! Buy me a drink!" Mr. Harris replied, "You can buy your own drink. I'm getting out of here.")

Jackson Rhoads

Despite the law, "grave-robbing" was somewhat tacitly tolerated—as long as it didn't hit too close to home.

"There's a cemetery in Ohio that had torpedoes around the graves to deter grave robbers," Mr. Rhoads said.

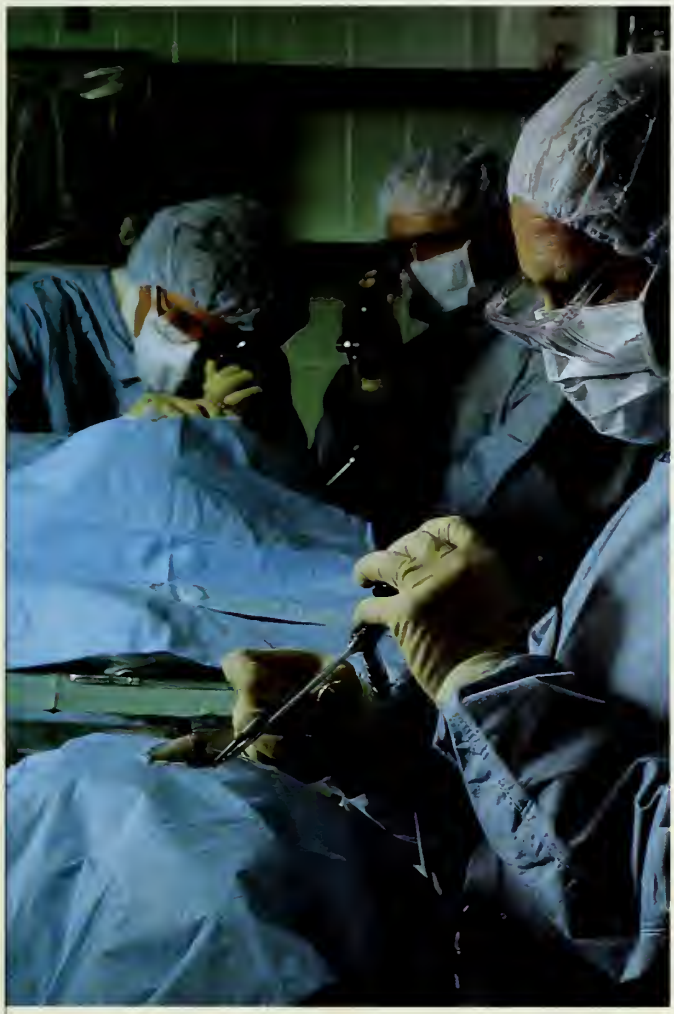
Unfortunately, such a chilling, unsavory image lingered long past the days of illegal dissection. Dr. Bockman teamed up with Mr. Rhoads to help change the image.

"We started doing all sorts of things to encourage people to donate," Mr. Rhoads said. "Dr. Bockman and I went on a local television show and we wrote a donation booklet which we distributed to Georgia physicians."

The first organ transplants in the nation coincided with their efforts. "Organ donation has helped a great deal with body donation," Mr. Rhoads said. "After the first heart transplant, there was a big change. People started inquiring about donating. Over the years, it's grown everywhere."

"More and more people are anxious to donate," Dr. Bockman said. "Most people feel like it's a last act by which they can help their fellow man by providing a means for medical students to learn, pass the knowledge on and use it to help their patients."

Mr. Rhoads said 80 bodies have been donated to MCG so far this year, and he anticipates the number to grow to about 180 by the end of the year. Body donors defy generalizations, he said. "They come from all walks of life—physicians, attorneys, rich people, poor people. I think a lot of people do it for altruistic reasons. Many have been patients here. Many are would-be organ donors unable to donate because of age or condition. We



Area surgeons often use the anatomy laboratory to refine new techniques.

have so many interesting letters from people who donate and why they want to. Some are lighthearted, some are serious."

Once a donated body is available, Mr. Rhoads—on call 24 hours a day—meets with the family and obtains pertinent information about the deceased. Family members can specify whether they want the remains returned for burial after MCG has completed its work with the body—about a year. If not, the anatomy department hosts a non-denominational memorial service and cremates the remains at the end of the year.

After obtaining the body, Mr. Rhoads embalms it and stores it in plastic vacuum bags. (Mr. Rhoads once worked with plastics for a chemical company and applied the expertise to body storage. His technique precludes the need for refrigeration.)

He then makes the body available to students and researchers, overseeing most dissections personally. Cadavers are used by students in the schools of allied health, dentistry, medicine and graduate studies, and Mr. Rhoads determines which group the body is best suited to. "If the bodies are diseased, they might go to allied health or dentistry students who don't need those structures," he said.

The laboratory is in almost constant use, especially since area physicians are invited to use the bodies to practice a surgical technique or refine a new one. "When I first came here, there was practically no activity (in the lab) at all," Mr. Rhoads said. "Now, it's completely year-round."

The department insists that the bodies are treated with the utmost dignity and respect. "This type of job takes a lot of moxie," Mr. Rhoads said. "You've got to put your foot down sometimes. You've got hundreds of students and you want to make sure rules are followed, etiquette observed."

But the students themselves often demand the highest standards of all, he said, becoming almost protective of the deceased. Some have to overcome some initial apprehension when working with the bodies, but they generally come to value the experience. "I think the usual experience is some fear, some questioning, but that gradually transitions to amazement and appreciation for the capabilities of the human body," Dr. Bockman said. "I recall as a graduate student being particularly fascinated by the muscles and tendons of hands, allowing for all that precise movement. It's incredibly amazing, incredibly delicate."

The students hold an annual memorial service eulogizing the body donors and expressing gratitude for their generosity. "A couple of years ago, a female student commented during the service that the body did not ever seem to be real until she noticed fingernail polish on the fingers and toes," Mr. Rhoads said. "That somehow changed her feelings about the bodies."

Such awe and appreciation also permeates the atmosphere at the annual memorial/cremation ceremony. Father Joseph O'Brien, an Episcopalian priest and former humanities teacher at MCG, wrote a *Prayer of Gratitude by Young Physicians* recited at the ceremony.

"We have learned in touching these bodies something about death," it reads in part. "Once they laughed, cried, fought and loved. And no longer do. They have spoken to us of our death and thus of all that human life contains. Let us remember from this the depths each human life contains. Let them rest in peace; may they forever walk in light."

—CHRISTINE HURLEY DERISO

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Anatomy at Your Finger Tips

One can't go to the bank, record a favorite program or even buy groceries without the use of computers. But despite our reliance on them, people can't deny the instinctive desire to keep things as simple as possible. That's where Dr. Thomas Gest, assistant professor of anatomy at the Medical College of Georgia, comes in.

Dr. Gest has created a program allowing students to access the incredibly complex world of anatomy on a computer disk—and he's made it simple.

The program, designed for Macintosh computers, accompanies a new video disk series called The Anatomy Project.

"I first saw the original disk in the series at the 1989 convention of the American Association of Clinical Anatomists," Dr. Gest said. "I immediately thought, 'This would be a great tool for anatomy students.'"

Each disk can store a remarkable amount of information about a specific part of the body. The disk begins with an overview of that body part. It then goes into great detail, showing the structure, including the muscles, circulatory system and other detailed features.

The disks also include information on various ailments of the body part being studied.

"These disks are designed so that the viewer can be as detailed or as general as he wishes. A nurse or a physical therapy student may not want the detail to the same extent that a surgeon might. When they start using the system, they simply select the amount of detail they want and the disk will play only the selections that are desirable," Dr. Gest said.

Students and practicing physicians use the disks to study or review anatomy. It may not replace anatomy courses where students are able to study real human tissue, but it does provide a convenient and entertaining way to review or expand on what is learned in the lab.

Using the program Dr. Gest wrote, the Macintosh and the video disk player are connected via cable and communicate with each other. The user simply tells the Macintosh what he wants to see and the computer tells the player to show it. The computer does the searching rather than requiring the user to search for possibily hours to find the specific piece of information he wants.

"It gives the user a way to access any specific piece of information on the disk without having to scan through the whole disk," Dr. Gest said. "It also makes the disk much easier to use, without adding a lot to the final price tag."

Currently, Dr. Gest is working on the sixth disk of the series. When complete, the series will be comprised of 26 disks. Macintosh and personal computer software will be available for each disk.

The series was developed by Scholastic Interactive TeleVision of London, and along with the Macintosh software is gaining popularity in medical schools around the world. The series is now available at 15 percent of the English-speaking medical schools in the world and the software developed by Dr. Gest is available at 5 percent of the English-speaking medical schools in the world.

The five disks that are complete and available at the Robert B. Greenblatt, M.D. Library at MCG include three on neuroanatony, one on the eye and one on the hand. They are available for student use during normal library hours.

"This system can not only benefit doctors, but is also widely used by nurses, allied health professionals and just about anybody who needs to know anatomy," Dr. Gest said. ■

—DAVID WALLER

Journey Through the Brain

Faculty at the Medical College of Georgia have found a new tool to help teach the many complex structures of the brain and brain stem: a computerized neuroanatomy atlas.

Neurosurgery resident Richard Rowe, medical illustrator Carrie DiLorenzo and anatomy professor Tom Weidman teamed up with software engineer Gary Berlin to create a self-paced neuroanatomy atlas consisting of two programs, one of the brain and another of the brain stem.

"This is a computerized atlas of the brain for teaching gross anatomy to medical students, medical illustration students, other allied health students and so on," said Dr. Rowe.

The programs contain high-quality scanned cross-sectional images of the brain and the brain stem, which the program can identify for the student or the student can use to test himself.

"This atlas has intentionally been designed as a self-test," Ms. DiLorenzo said. "This is really designed with the goal of helping the student learn all this information, and we wanted to make something that is more direct than the black and white photos and line drawings found in the traditional books."

When a student launches the program, he can choose which part of the brain he wants to study and can look at it from several different angles. The program offers optional overlays and arrows isolating various structures to be identified.

"We wanted to make this as non-intimidating and as accessible as possible," Dr. Rowe said. "This is simply an additional tool for learning, to augment the textbooks."

"This is really something I've wanted to do since I took anatomy as a freshman medical student," he said. "Then the computer capability became available when the Macintosh II was developed, and the project began development in 1988."

The completed atlas of the brain and brain stem has been licensed to Miles Inc., which is distributing it as an educational gift to medical schools and physicians. The company has received more than 3,000 requests for the Macintosh version program so far, and Miles also has had the program translated for IBM-compatible computers.

The program is loosely based on Hypercard, a multi-purpose application written for Macintosh computers used to store and link many types of information. But the atlas contains many additional specialized features that are made possible by external commands, written by Mr. Berlin.

The programs are being used at a number of medical schools throughout the country, including MCG, where it is available to students on computers at the Robert B. Greenblatt, M.D. Library.

"Comments from students have been very favorable," said Dr. Weidman, associate professor of cellular biology and anatomy. "This is a wonderful resource to allow them to review on their own, and they can do it at their convenience. It's much more efficient than just the textbooks, and it makes getting the information easier for them, which is the main point."

Students can use this computer to answer many questions that come up early in an introductory course, which saves time for both the student and instructor, according to Dr. Weidman.

"With this resource available, students don't have to be worried about possibly being embarrassed by asking the 'dumb' question, and about trying to get a busy faculty person's attention," he said. "In large classes with compact schedules, it is quite possible for some students to get left behind because they aren't ready to move on to the next subject, which builds upon earlier experiences.

"The program also is very useful to students preparing for the national boards, in preparing for patient examination and presentation, etc. Such review may be extensive, or it may be just checking out a few points which aren't readily recalled from memory.

"I think that the best feature is that this is an interactive learning tool," he said. "The students can see and read the information on the screen, they can test themselves, they can locate various structures, they can follow a track up and down the central nervous system—whatever method helps them grasp the information."

The program has been so popular that Miles is now funding development of an animated microvascular atlas, which will show the blood supply to the brain in microscopic detail. It is being developed by the same group and is scheduled for release in fall 1993. The complete atlas will be made of six or seven chapters; the group hopes to have the first chapter completed by this fall. It also will be available in an IBM version, now being translated by faculty at the Georgia Institute of Technology College of Computing.

"This is a subject that has not been dealt with as much as gross neuroanatomy, so in many ways this will be a new resource," Ms. DiLorenzo said.

The microvascular atlas is a color, three-dimensional illustration of the blood supply to the brain. Students will be able to study structures from various positions and see how the blood flows through and around them.

"And again, we are designing this atlas to run on any Macintosh II series computer (in color), so it won't be necessary to buy an incredibly sophisticated, expensive computer to take advantage of these resources," Ms. DiLorenzo said.

—INGRID HEGGOY

Medical illustrators Bill Glass (foreground), Carrie DiLorenzo and anatomy professor Tom Weidman.

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